

A Western Obituary of Poe

Haldeen Braddy notes in this number of *Poe Newsletter* the interest in Poe in the West and calls for study of Poe's reputation and influence in the West. In answer to the question of how far westward Poe's fame reached during his lifetime, a notice of the death of Poe in the *Oregon Spectator* of 7 February 1850 may be of interest. It appeared on page one, indicative of its newsworthiness. The editor was Wilson Blain, who assumed his duties in October 1849. The text of the notice follows, with errors, that of Griswold's notice in the *New York Tribune* of 9 October 1849.

OREGON SPECTATOR

Vol. 4. "Westward the Star of Empire takes its way," No 10

Wilson Blain, Editor] [Geo. B. Goudy, Printer

Oregon City, (O.T.,) Thursday, February 7, 1850

MISCELLANEOUS

Death of Edgar Allen [*sic*] Poe

"Quoth the Raven, "Never More?"

Edgar Allen [*sic*] Poe is dead. He died in Baltimore on Sunday, September 7. This announcement will startle many, but few will be grieved by it. . . .

Note the "O.T." — Oregon Territory. A question mark, not an exclamation point, occurs after "Never More"; the quotation marks, the "Allen," and the date of Poe's death are as given. In the same issue is a note to the effect that a man recently traveled from Boston to Oregon City the fastest the editor had heard of — a passage of two months and twelve days. Boat, I presume, portaging across the isthmus: Chagres River, and so on. And the mail, with the Poe note, seems to have been four months *en route*. Possibly less though — maybe the editor could not get across the Willamette River to his office because the water was so high. I have come across a note to that effect in one of the issues.

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